We are now in a position to understand what is meant by the laws of nature. We may mean three different things, which ought to be carefully distinguished.

FIRST, THE PROPERTIES OF BODIES, or their power of producing changes on each other. As example*, we may give the power which all matter lias to attract other matter—which oxygen has to combine chemically with carbon in certain proportions—which an alkali has to destroy the sourness of an acid—which an acid has to redden vegetable blues—which light has to blacken chloride of silver, and the power which the cellular tissues of living bodies possess of absorbing contiguous matter. In using the phrase in this sense, we must always remember that properties, in order to action, require airatljustment of two or more bodies to each other.

SECONDLY, THE DELATION OF THE CAUSK IN ACTUAL GPKKATION TO rrs EFFECTS, or the action of two or more bodies so adjusted that their properties operate. Thus, while the power of the .sunbeams to colour the vegetable juices may be regarded as a property, • the sunbeams and juices so tic ting as to colour the leaves may be regarded as a cause in actual operation. The power of oxygen to combine with iron in a property of the oxygen, but a property having reference to the iron ; the oxygen and iron concurring to produce rusfc, is an example of a cause. We have also illustrations of causes in the co-operation of tho oxygen and carbon, of the alkali and acid, of the cellular tissues and the inorganic substances on which they work. It is only in the sense now before us that we can speak with propriety of the *aclion* of a law of nature. But kit it be observed, that such a law, when iu continued action, implies a continuation of the relation of two or more bodies to each other,

THIRDLY, A GENKUALIXED BKT OF FACTS, or objects and events grouped together by points of resemblance. We

have observed that all quadrupeds are mammalia, and that children are of the same species as their parents, and we call these general facts, laws of nature. Of this same description are the lawn of tho revolution of the seasons, of human mortality, of the distribution of tho plants over the earth's surface, of the variation of the magnetic needle, and those empirical lawjj regarding heat and electricity which scientific inquirers are HO earnestly seeking; to discover in the present day. We see at once how these